

NOTE

A New Record of the Flea *Tarsopsylla octodecimdentata coloradensis*
(Baker, 1895) (Siphonaptera: Ceratophyllidae) in Utah

Tarsopsylla Wagner, 1927, is a holarctic genus for which the nominate species [*Tarsopsylla octodecimdentata octodecimdentata* (Kolenati, 1863)] occurs from Europe to extreme eastern Asia. Nearctic populations are considered a subspecies [*Tarsopsylla octodecimdentata coloradensis* (Baker, 1895)] of the nominate species and are found from Alaska to New Mexico (Haddow et al. 1983). Baker (1895) originally described *T. o. coloradensis* from a single male (holotype: *Pulex coloradensis* USNM No. 104605) collected on Fremont's Chickaree [= *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* (Erxleben)], George Town, 39°43'N 105°42'W, [Clear Creek County], Colorado, L. Bruner. Holland (1985) provided a detailed account of records throughout Alaska and western Canada. In addition to the original description, only five records have been documented in montane regions of the western United States. These include; 1) one female collected from the nest of *Glaucomys sabrinus* (Shaw), Powwatka Ridge, Wallowa County, Oregon, 17.XII.1977, M. Huff. (Lewis et al. 1988, Whitaker et al. 1983) (collection data obtained from R. E. Lewis, pers. Comm.); 2) two females collected from *Martes americana* (Turton), Larimer County, Colorado, X.1977 (Eads et al. 1979); 3) one female collected from *T. hudsonicus*, San Pedro Mt., 2670–2733 m, Sandoval County, New Mexico, V.1969–1971 (Haas et al. 1973); 4) 13 males and 12 females collected from four *T. hudsonicus* nests, 6.X.1953 (Morlan 1955); and 5) two males collected from *G. sabrinus*, Deer Park, Boise, Idaho, 15–18.XII.1939, W.H. Marshall. The latter specimens were originally described as *Opisodasys*

jellisoni I. Fox, 1941 (USNM No. 54249) and Holland (1949) subsequently synonymized *O. jellisoni* with that of *T. o. coloradensis*. This flea is rarely collected and Morlan's (1955) collection of such a large series of adults from four nests would support the premise that this is a true nest flea collected only during the cooler months of the year. It undoubtedly occurs in many montane localities in the western United States in conjunction with the red squirrel, *T. hudsonicus*, and the northern flying squirrel, *G. sabrinus*. These squirrels frequent each others nesting tree cavities and both are occasionally prey to the pine marten, *M. americana*. Therefore, this flea may be found on all three of these host species but the true host is probably *T. hudsonicus*.

This first report of *T. o. coloradensis* in Utah is represented by a single female collected from *G. sabrinus*, nr. Marsh Lake and China Lake (Smith's Fork drainage, north slope of Uinta Mountains) (40°57'N 110°24'W), Summit County, Utah, 13.XI.2001. Holland (1985) pointed out the variation that may occur in the female seventh sternite. The caudal margin of the seventh sternite of the Utah female has a broadly squared dorsal lobe subtended by a broad moderately deep sinus and a ventral lobe. This specimen is retained in the author's personal flea collection.

Tipton and Saunders (1971) reported 115 species of fleas in Utah. Two are considered invalid species [*Eumolpianus eumolpi americanus* (Hubbard, 1950) (see Lewis and Jameson 2002), and *Meringis jewetti* Hubbard, 1940 (see Smit 1953)] and the presence of a third, *Stenistomera hubbardi* Egoscue, 1968, can not be

validated in Utah. Two additional species were subsequently documented in Utah by Kucera (1995) [*Euhoplopsyllus glacialis lynx* (Baker, 1904)] and Hastriter (1997) (*Tunga monositus* Barnes and Radovsky, 1969). With the addition of *T. o. coloradensis*, the total number of recognized species (including subspecies) in Utah is 115 with 53 genera represented.

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